

CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

1. A communication system including at least one communication device, each of which stores a first set of data, and a second device connected to each of the at least one communication device over a computer network, wherein the second device includes a transmission unit that transmits replacement data to at least one of the at least one communication device via the computer network, and

each of the at least one communication device includes a storage unit capable of storing the first set of data, a reception unit that receives said replacement data, and an overwriting unit that writes the replacement data over the first set of data.

2. The communication system of claim 1 wherein the at least one communication device includes a plurality of communication devices, and the replacement data is received from the second device simultaneously by at least two of the plurality of communication devices.

3. The communication system of claim 1 wherein the second device further includes a timer that detects time, and the replacement data is sent to the communication device when the timer detects a predetermined time.

4. The communication system of claim 2 wherein the second device further includes a timer that detects time, and the replacement data is sent to the communication device when the timer detects a predetermined time.

5. The communication system of claim 3 wherein the replacement data includes at

9. A communication system including a client computer, a local area network, and a plurality of facsimile machines connected to the client computer over the local area network, wherein at least two of the plurality of facsimile machines store at least either quick dial telephone numbers or operating programs, and the client computer simultaneously transmits replacement data to said two or more of the plurality of facsimile machines over the Local Area Network.

10. The communication system of claim 9 wherein the client computer is provided with a timer that detects time, and the replacement data is sent to the facsimile machines when the timer detects a predetermined time.

11. The communication system of claim 9 wherein the client computer transmits a data overwriting instruction to said facsimile machines, and said facsimile machines reply to the client computer indicating whether or not they are capable of overwriting the data.

12. A data overwriting method for a communication system that includes at least one communication device each of which stores a first set of data, and a second device connected to the at least one communication device over a computer network, the data overwriting method comprising the steps of:

transmitting replacement data from the second device to at least one the communication device over the computer network; and

replacing the first set of data with the replacement data at the at least one communication device.

13. The data overwriting method of claim 12 wherein the at lease one communication device includes at least two communication devices, and the replacement data is transmitted from the second device to the two or more of the at least two communication devices simultaneously.

14. The data overwriting method of claim 12 wherein the second device is provided with a timer that detects time, and the step of transmitting the replacement data is performed when the timer detects a specified time.

15. The data overwriting method of claim 13 wherein the second device is provided with a timer that detects time, and the step of transmitting the replacement data is performed when the timer detects a specified time.

16. The data overwriting method of claim 12 wherein the replacement data includes at least either quick-dial telephone numbers or operating programs.

17. The data overwriting method of claim 13 wherein the replacement data includes quick-dial telephone numbers.

